

Subsidized Child Care Assistance Makes a Difference for Children and Communities

All North Carolina

SFY 2020-2021

What Service is Needed:

Subsidized Child Care Assistance

- Helps parents pay for child care so they can work or attend school
- Provides information to parents about how to choose a safe, quality child care arrangement
- Funded by a mixture of state (20%) and federal dollars (80%)

North Carolina County Facts

- 379,631 children are potentially eligible for subsidized child care assistance. Children under age 0-5 whose Parent(s) are working and whose family income is at or below the 200% federal poverty level or children 6-11 whose family income is at or below 133% FPL.¹
- \$ 426,801,085 is currently available to serve eligible children.²
- Currently 65,015 children are receiving subsidized child care assistance. This represents 17.13% of all potentially eligible children.²

¹Based upon data from the 2013 – 2018 American Community Survey data and July 2019 Population by Age from the North Carolina State Data.

²Includes Non-Smart Start and Smart Start final allocations (SFY 2020-21) and children served (during 9/20)

Key Facts about Subsidized Child Care Assistance

- Approximately 59,653 children per month receive subsidized child care assistance
- 83% of the children are receiving assistance because their parents are employed
- 72% of the families receiving assistance earn less than \$25,000 per year
- Parents pay a portion of the child care cost by paying 10% of their income as a parent fee

The Benefits:

For Families

- Helps parents to work and attend school
- Provides a safe setting for children
- Helps children to be better prepared for school
- Having a good early childhood education experience helps children to be successful in language, math and social skills in school

For the Community

- Working families put a large amount of money back into the local economy and tax system through their employment, earnings and purchase of child care.
- The cost of child care subsidy services is offset by the working families' ability to pay taxes.
- Parents with stable child care arrangements are more focused on the job and make better employees.
- Receiving subsidized child care assistance offers children a chance to receive an early childhood education which leads to increased success in school and less costs to the community and state in terms of remedial service.